#Save TheBatt
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This is the last issue of The DrumBeat newspaper for March 2022. We will resume publication on April. 1, 2022 and will continue to post on thedrumbeat.com.

The DrumBeat

Tyler Junior College's independent student media since 1927

March 4 - March 31, 2022

Vol. 90 - Issue 10

Student Senate passes new recognition process

Incoming organizations no longer undergo voting procedure for approval

By Maddison Grimaldo & Marie Salazar
Social Media Editor & Editor-in-Chief

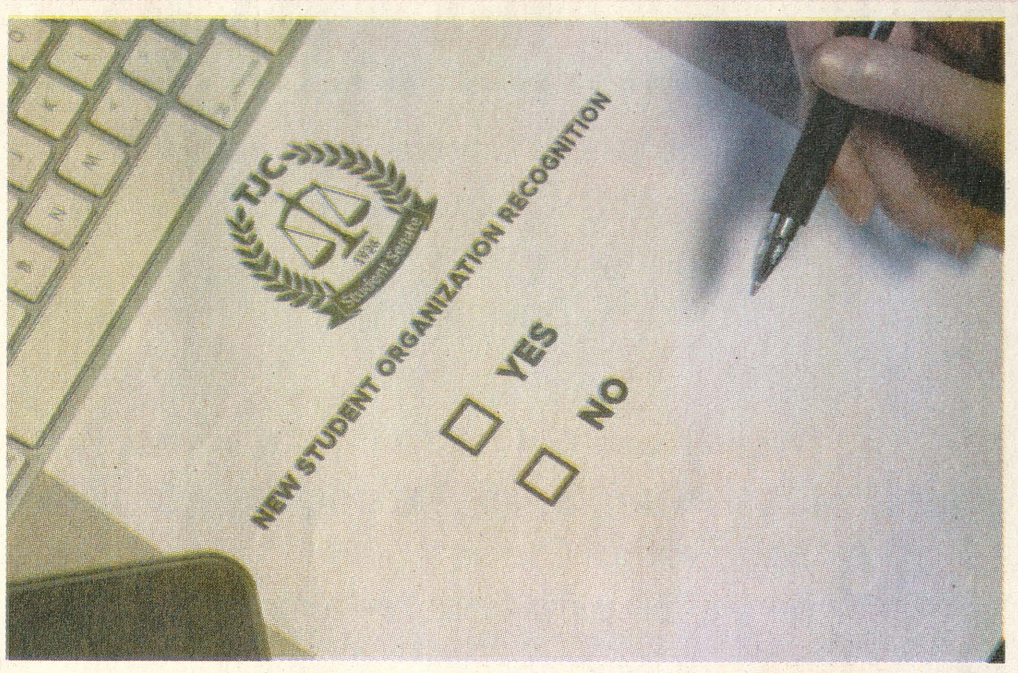


Photo Illustration by Marie Salazar
The original recognition process requires new organizations to be approved via vote. New organizations will no longer be subject to vote, they must only meet a set of specific requirements to be recognized.

Student organizations will have a new recognition process starting in the fall.

At the Feb. 22 meeting, the Student Senate voted on and approved a proposal to change the student handbook guidelines regarding how student organizations are recognized. With the proper paperwork and following certain protocols, student organizations will now automatically be recognized as organizations without the previous stipulation of a student vote.

Aaron Hernandez, chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee and the creator of the proposal, expressed how he felt about the recent changes.

"I don't think it will have a big effect on current organizations," Hernandez said. He added he feels as if the process will help people be less afraid to propose new ideas for organizations and take away the possibility of discrimination.

With the new guidelines, in addition to submitting required documents, to be recognized on-campus organizations must: Adhere to TJC's Statement of Nondiscrimination which states, "Tyler Junior College gives equal consideration to all applicants for admission, employment and participation in its programs and activities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, veteran status or limited English proficiency (LEP). Tyler Junior College respects the legal rights of each person to work and learn in an environment that is free from unlawful sexual discrimination including sexual harassment and sexual violence."

An organization can use TJC's name and logo and will be added to the website as an official organization once they meet the new requirements. Additionally to start an organization a group needs five TJC students and a full-time college employee to advise or sponsor the organization.

"So you apply for a new student organization, and the moment your forms and application process has been accepted by the office, you're an organization already. So you can start using TJC's logo, you can start using TJC's name, you will be listed as an official organization on our website, our lists and stuff like that," Hernandez said.

All accepted organizations will then be introduced to the student body during a designated organization presentation day.

"So there is a designated meeting for that. It's called organization presentation day or meeting. So they will all apply; they will all get accepted. They will have time to come up with a presentation of some sort and then they all present at the designated meeting," Hernandez said in an earlier interview with The DrumBeat.

Student Joseph Ritter, representing speech and debate, discusses how he feels about the updated recognition process.

"It is very different than what we have now, but looking back at how all the voting went last semester, I definitely can see both sides," Ritter said.

With some students not agreeing with his proposal, Hernandez responds, "Do not worry about it. If you do not like an organization that got approved then stay away from it," Hernandez said. "I believe that with them getting rid of the vote it is opening so many doors for so many other organizations who can probably come in the future."

Hernandez was inspired by the University of Texas at Tyler's student organization approval process, which states that an organization needs the appropriate faculty, number of students, and paperwork to be approved. Colleges such as Stephen F. Austin State University, Kilgore College, the University of Texas at Tyler, and Trinity Valley Community College don't require voting for organizations to be approved. However, SFA and TVCC do require officers of the clubs to go through training before the club can become official.

Student Senate first introduced this proposal at a meeting held on Feb. 8.

Problems with the original recognition process were brought to light in previous committee meetings, Hernandez mentioned in a previous report from The DrumBeat.

"So it was brought to our attention that the final decision of the appeal process shouldn't be left to the director of student life, and so the committee agreed that it should be given back to the students. So that's the reason we changed it, or that's the reason we came up with this proposal," Hernandez said.

Construction underway for OHPE, set to end Jan. 2023

By Marie Salazar
Editor-in-Chief

The Ornelas Health and Physical Education Center is currently undergoing construction.

The OHPE has been serving Tyler Junior College's student body' needs in fitness and recreation since 1986, according to tjc.edu/ohpe. Mark Gartman, director of facilities and construction, discusses the changes to the facility.

"Once complete, the building will be a dedicated band hall, Belles' studio and the dance academy. All previous fitness activity will be removed from the building," Gartman said. "These activities will be temporarily relocated to the Apache Woodlands."

The Apache Woodlands surrounds parking lot S-24 toward the merging of E. Devine St. and S. Porter Ave.

The band hall and Belles' studio are still currently located in the OHPE.

Gartman states the construction is expected to be completed by January 2023. In the meantime, certain areas of the OHPE are still open for recreational use.

Heath Stoner, OHPE director, explains what is currently available to students, faculty and staff.

Downstairs heavyweight room

- The downstairs heavyweight room is an area on the lower level of the OHPE that contains some of the facility's heavy-weight equipment including weight plates.

Downstairs machine weight room

- The downstairs machine weight room includes the weight machines and their necessary attachments, such as the Smith weight machines.

Cardio Room

- The cardio room includes most of the facility's cardiovascular equipment such as ellipticals and treadmills.

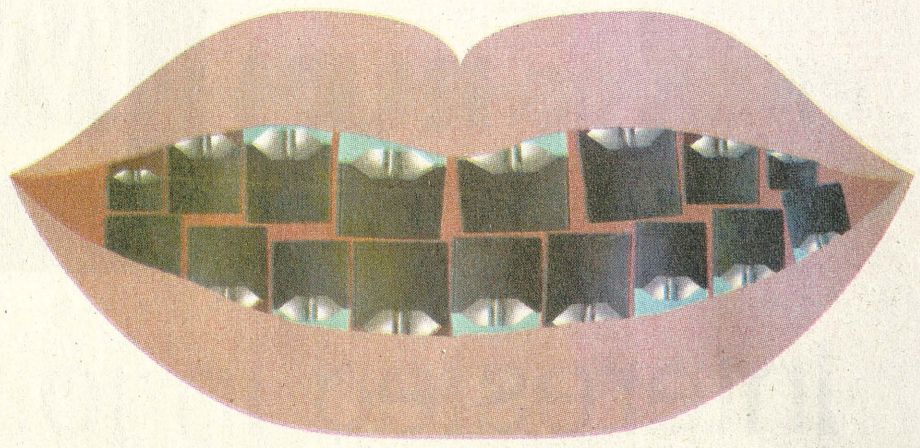
One Pingpong Table

- The pingpong table is used for table tennis.

These areas can be accessed during OHPE's business hours, which are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday.

OHPE Continued on Page 3

Photo by Chris Swann
Registered students can bring immediate family as guests to the facility, according to www.tjc.edu. Individuals who are not students, faculty or staff can receive a monthly pass for $25 to the OHPE by calling (903)-510-2900.



Graphic by Marie Salazar
Nicotine as well as other ingredients found in e-cigarettes can cause gum deterioration, according to newyorkdentaloffice.com.

Examining the oral hygiene effects caused by vaping

By Asia Johnson
Managing Editor

An electric cigarette, or a "vape," is an electronic smoking device that stimulates tobacco smoking. Due to the price comparison to traditional cigarettes, its variety of flavoring and the idea that it is a healthier alternative, vaping has become popular among younger aged people.

Many hospitalizations, deaths and lung damage have been reported with direct causation of vaping, but what else does vaping have a negative impact on?

One part of the body directly affected by vaping is the mouth.

According to the New York Dental Office, "In many instances, vaping can lead to the need for dental procedures that could otherwise have been avoided with good oral hygiene."

Diseases, surgeries and permanent oral damage can occur with frequent vaping. One of those diseases is periodontal disease.

Vaping Effects Continued on Page 3

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Questions or concerns? Email: news@thedrumbeat.com or call: 903-510-2299

Upcoming March Events at TJC

8
Student Senate General Assembly
4 p.m., Jenkins Hall, Room 1109
TJC Night Out
7 p.m., Downtown Tyler

10
Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
9 a.m.-3 p.m., Parking Lot F-3
Jazz Festival Concert
7:30 p.m., Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center, Wise Auditorium

11
Jazz Festival Concert
7:30 p.m., Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center, Wise Auditorium

14-Spring Break-21

22
Student Senate General Assembly
4 p.m., Jenkins Hall, Room 1109
Bingo Night
7 p.m., Apache Rooms 1 and 2

For more information and events, visit tjc.edu.

Upcoming Workshops in Vaughn Library

7
MLA Style Writing Workshop
3:30 p.m.

8
Critical and Adaptive Thinking for College and Beyond
2:30 p.m.

21
APA Style Writing Workshop
3:30 p.m.

22
Reading Strategies for College Success
2:30 p.m.

28
Grammar Writing Workshop
3:30 p.m.

29
Stress Management Tips
2:30 p.m.

For more information and Zoom workshops, visit orgsync.tjc.edu.

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Interested in joining The DrumBeat?

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-Camera Operators
-Sports Editor
-Student Life Editor
-Script Writers
-Many More!

For more information and to get involved, visit Jenkins Hall, Rooms1114 B or 1108.

Vaping Effects: Weighing the lifetime health consequences, gum recession

From Page 1

Dental hygiene major, Elizabeth Turner said, "Vaping, along with cigarette smoking, causes vasoconstriction. This decreases the blood flow in the mouth which carries nutrients and oxygen, and hides important signs of inflammation."

Vasoconstriction is the shrinking of small muscles in the walls of blood vessels. When blood vessels are constricted, blood flow is slowed or blocked. Signs of inflammation are when your gums bleed after being brushed or when they are bright red, and should be reported to the dentist when noticed.

"If vaping hides these signs, people end up coming to the dentist when it is too late to prevent periodontal disease and bone loss," Turner said. "Nicotine use, vaping included, increases the risk of periodontal disease by 40-50%. These patients also often have heavy deposits and mobile teeth."

Another effect of vaping is gum recession, which is when your gums are pushed back abnormally. This can be avoided by proper oral care.

"In order to avoid gum recession that can result from constant vaping, it is important to constantly clean gums by using mouthwash and brushing the gums several times a day," the New York Dental Office said.

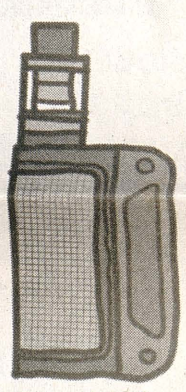
Vaping can cause serious and even life-threatening problems that start in the mouth.

"Any kind of smoking or vaping increases the risk for oral cancers in the mouth," Turner said. "If anything looks out of the normal and lasts for longer than two weeks, it needs to be evaluated by a dentist or oral surgeon."

One ingredient used in vapes is propylene glycol, known as PG, which breaks down into acid and damages tooth enamel. This ingredient also causes dry mouth that prevents saliva from fighting off diseases and bacteria.

America's ToothyFairy.com said, "... teens are likely to drink soda or energy drinks to get rid of dry mouth. This magnifies the damage caused by PG because these drinks contain sugar that feeds the bacteria and acids that further erode tooth enamel."

> **Vaping, along with cigarette smoking, causes Vasoconstriction. This decreases the blood flow in the mouth which carries nutrients and oxygen, and hides important signs of inflammation. - Elizabeth Turner, Dental hygiene Major**



Graphic by Chris Swann

Turner supported this claim saying saliva is the mouth's best defense against cavities and without it, risk for disease "increases exponentially."

OHPE: Renovated areas serve the TJC community

Photo by Chris Swann

Equipment such as weight machines and heavy-weight equipment is still available for use during construction.

From Page 1

For some students, the OHPE remains part of their everyday routine despite construction.

Ashley Jeffery, TJC sophomore, discusses her everyday interaction with the facility.

"I visited the OHPE every day for Belles, but sometimes I would go up extra days," Jeffery said. "I would go up in my free time to run on the indoor track."

Due to the construction, exits and entrances have been closed off and students have been rerouted.

"The entrance to these areas are on the south side of the building and marked by signage. The construction site itself is enclosed by a chain link fence with signage identifying a construction area. In addition, lot F-7 is closed and used as a laydown yard for the project," Gartman said.

Freshman Caroline Phillips discusses how the changes have affected her.

"I mean, the construction does partially affect my daily routine, but not in any big way, mainly, just instead of using the normal entrance that band students would use, I have to go around to the front," Phillips said. "But other than that, it's not really a big deal, and I'm really excited for the changes that are about to come."

Sarah VanCleef, vice president for financial and administrative affairs and chief financial officer, states some of the reasons for the renovation include the age of the building and the fact that some of its features are no longer in use. In addition, many of the programs who use the areas such as, The Academy of Dance, additional dance programs, the Band, and the Belles have "outgrown their current spaces and need larger facilities in which to rehearse," VanCleef said.

VanCleef further explains the need for renovations.

"The renovations will help TJC better serve the needs of the students, employees and the community with modern facilities for exercise and physical activity. The college is in the process of finalizing its comprehensive master plan for the district, and the opportunity for a new state-of-the-art recreational center will be part of the plan," VanCleef said.

The OHPE is free to all students with a valid student ID.

Culinary Arts Department bounces back after COVID-19

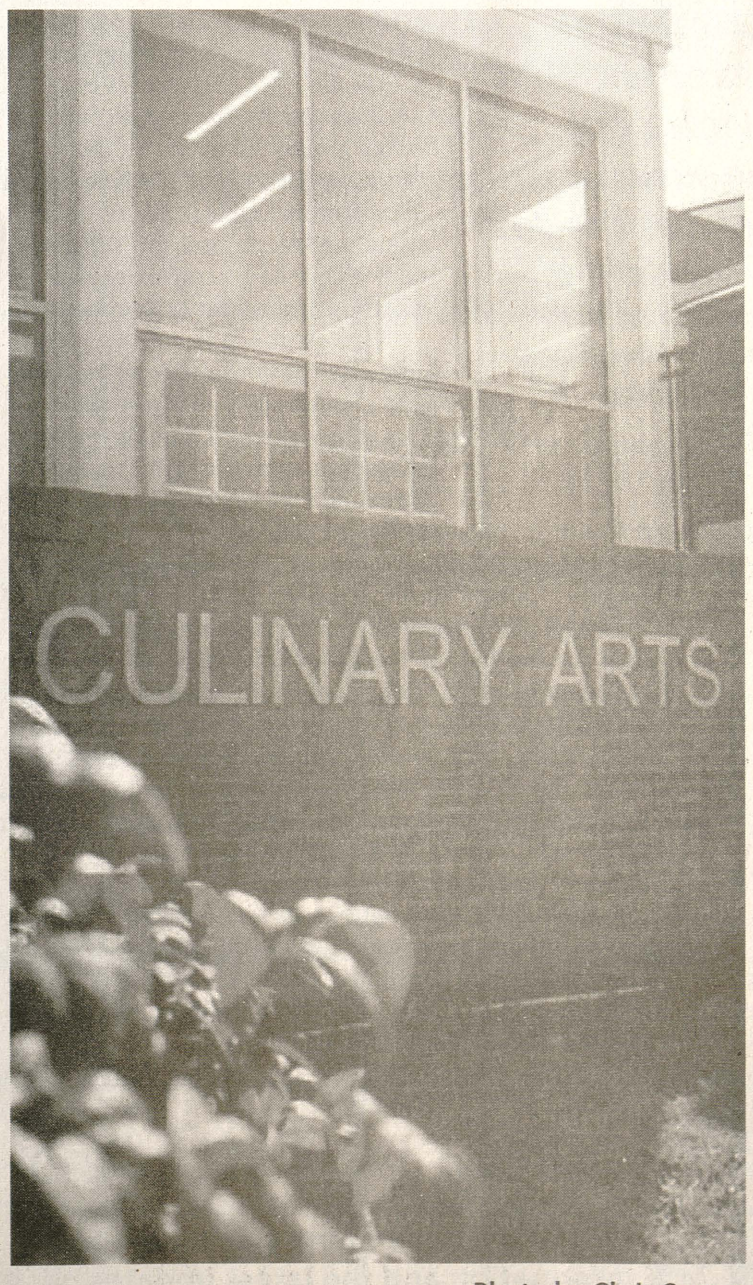


Photo by Chris Swann

According to tjc.edu/culinary, "We designed our curriculum with jobs in mind. We consulted with local industry experts to create a degree plan to fit the needs of our students. You'll learn by doing in a real-world environment with commercial-grade equipment."

By Garrison Nichols
Multimedia Journalist

It wasn't until about three years ago that Tyler Junior College had received it's own culinary program. The program has had a recent comeback after COVID-19 hit and since then has gradually increased in enrollment for its studies in culinary.

COVID-19 has been an obstacle for the Culinary Arts Department in the past, but the program has managed to make a comeback recently. When slowly opening the department back up, they were able to distance the students in order to maintain the hands-on experience of applied science.

They had enrollment issues in the beginning of the semester as the department was starting back up, according to Larry Matson, professor and Department Chair of Culinary Arts. The department is currently looking for new students and faculty to join the program.

The Culinary Arts Department offers two certifications such as, an entry level certification and another in pastry and desserts. Since this is an applied science, one can get their associate degree by following a multitude of pathways to graduation as long as the credits have been completed.

There are high expectations put on culinary students by both their professors as well as themselves. The Culinary Arts Department has standards for its students in its curriculum that they expect them to meet.

"The students should enjoy it, have a passion for it, and be on time," Matson said. Students develop a better work ethic and team oriented skills as well as an opportunity to improve and focus their skills during the culinary labs. The program is "50% making and the other 50% is learning and reflecting," Matson said. Students will usually have six hours a week for their cooking training but they are allowed to stay later if there is time to spare. They will also be required to have a journal to write any special information, critiquing, and the material learned in the course.

The Culinary Arts Department also helps other departments and organizations with catering. It is an optional opportunity for students, but the department does want to be able to have more students willing to help and even get paid to do it. The department collaborates with the work study program for students to give them a job helping catering.

"As long as it doesn't interfere with school then it's OK," Matson said.

The TJC Culinary Arts Department has their own restaurant called the "Apache Kitchen." The restaurant is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and is located next to the Pirtle Technology Building. Everything is cooked fresh and in their new kitchen. Guests can also watch the students practice their skills while they wait. Matson also makes sure things are ready so he checks inventory, gets things prepared and collaborates with other students and faculty there helping him to make sure the restaurant and the department runs smoothly every day.

The "Apache Kitchen" serves a soup of the day, fresh fruit, and a daily variety of desserts and pastries. There are assortments of sandwiches, pizza, and also lemon honey glazed salmon, fried chicken and pasta carbonara. One can also choose to buy a salad and add protein with the choices of chicken or salmon. The menu is subject to change

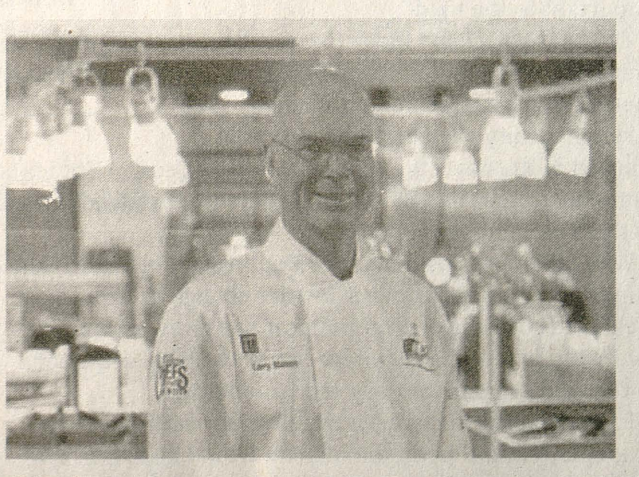
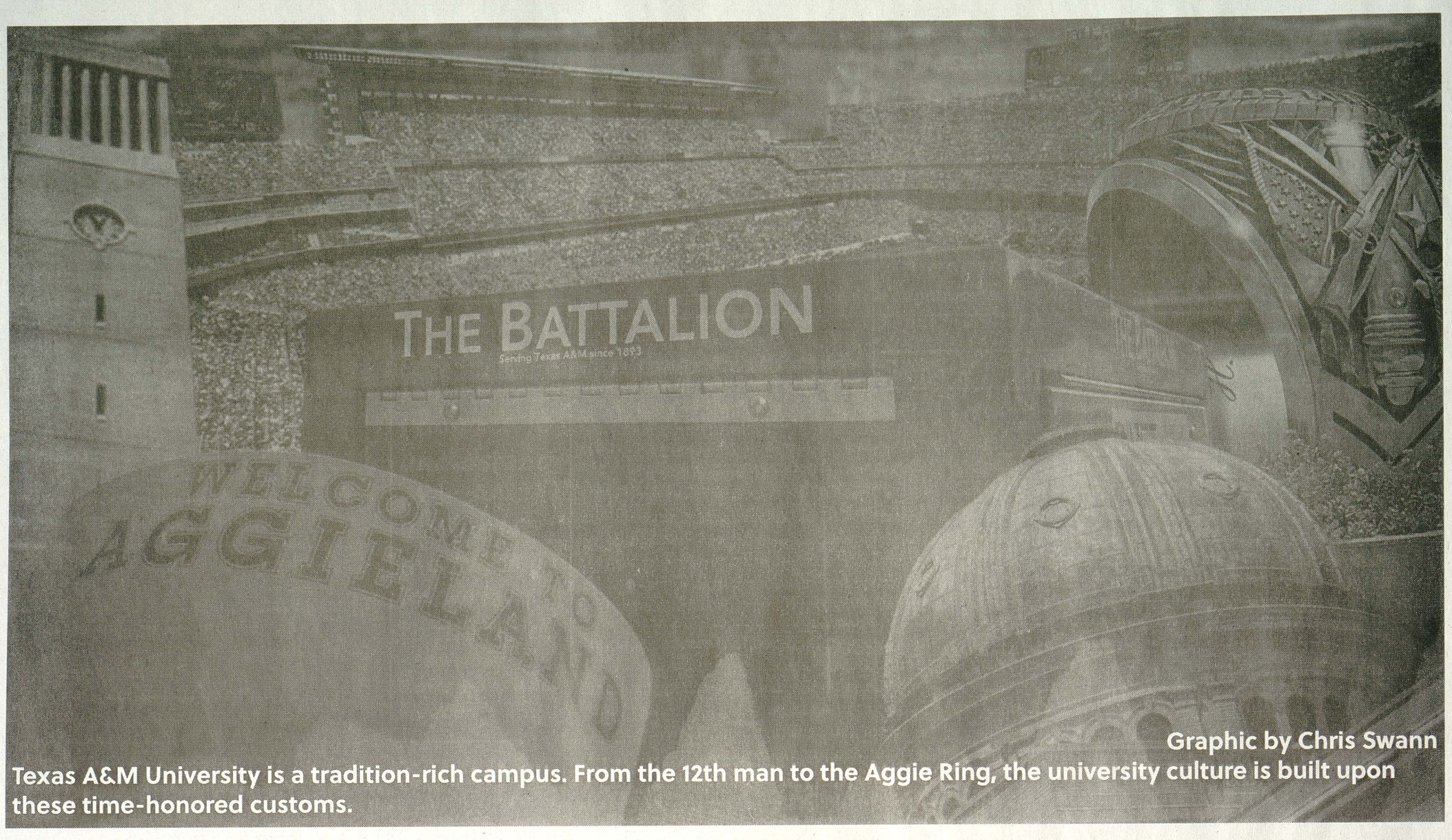


Photo courtesy of tjc.edu/culinary

TJC's culinary art's program debuted in January 2019. Larry Matson resides as the Department Chair.

The DrumBeat expresses solidarity with The Battalion, student press freedoms



Graphic by Chris Swann

Texas A&M University is a tradition-rich campus. From the 12th man to the Aggie Ring, the university culture is built upon these time-honored customs.

After Texas A&M's president demanded to cease print publication, public outcry led leadership to allow the organization to continue printing through the semester. But their future is still widely uncertain.

By The DrumBeat Staff

Katherine Banks, president of Texas A&M University, delivered an ultimatum to the student media team, The Battalion, on Feb. 10 demanding the organization cease publication of their weekly print edition effective immediately. Banks said she wants to use this to shift the organization under a new Department of Journalism. A move that would hinder the organization's independence.

Upon community backlash, Banks announced she would allow The Battalion to continue publication through the end of the semester and, via press release, announced the formation of a working group composed of student leaders from The Battalion and additional media experts to "discuss options for distribution of The Battalion's weekly publication, including consideration of digital content-delivery platforms."

Backing away even further, on Feb. 21, after Banks attended a special session of A&M's student senate, university administrators communicated to The Battalion that the demands were now void. While a promising sign, the future of The Battalion's print edition is still uncertain.

Even after these developments, The DrumBeat stands with The Battalion and expresses support for their fight ahead. Student media is important in every university, and all mediums being able to freely produce content for their student bodies is a vital part in a healthy organization.

Banks' initial reasoning in halting print production will allow the organization to focus on online and multimedia journalism. According to The Battalion, Banks said she, someone who is not a journalist, did not understand the value of print journalism.

"Gen Zs and millennials predominantly receive their news [digitally], and that is the market, here in College Station, certainly [among] college students," Banks said. "I do understand why [other university leadership] felt as if you need to have at least one experience ... to understand print media. I'm not a professor of journalism, I don't understand exactly why [print media] is important to the field."

> *"I'm not a professor of journalism, I don't understand exactly why [print media] is important to the field.*
> *- Katherine Banks, Texas A&M President"*

This was a decision made entirely by university leadership. No student staff members were informed until news broke through faculty advisers, who also only learned of the news the same day. A&M's Dean of Students Anne Reber told The Battalion leadership this decision was in the making for two weeks.

While the revitalization of the Department of Journalism is important and sounds like a positive change to Texas A&M, we feel the ceasing of print publications gives current and future students a disadvantage in terms of skill sets needed in the field, which is already very competitive.

Page design and layout is the primary skill that students without print journalism would lack. Learning the techniques behind assembling stories and graphics for newspapers and magazines are integral to the medium and industry.

The ability for a student journalist to be well rounded in all areas of the field is vital, especially if they plan to start a career in it. But for a student wanting to focus on print, the lack of such a medium could put them at a disadvantage. Almost all major media outlets in the field, most notably The New York Times, USA Today, and countless numbers of city outlets across America still print bi-weekly, weekly or daily issues. While print may be more antiquated compared to online, there is still massive readership among audiences who may not have online access.

Like the Battalion, we have multiple newspaper stands across campus and many of them often have to be refilled. To us, this shows the print medium isn't one in which college students or professors are turning away from, contrary to Banks' claims.

We also find the movement of The Battalion to the Department of Journalism alarming.

If The Battalion is moved underneath the Department of Journalism, the guaranteed independence that comes with being a student organization is essentially squandered. Under Texas A&M's 2021 system policy, official regulating summary, 09.02.01, states "A member's official messaging, such as signage, social media postings, press releases, news media interviews, and website postings, must be approved in accordance with applicable member rules or procedures." Though Banks' stated to A&M's student senate that the university "does not have to approve any messaging from a student organization." there is still much gray area remaining in terms of what could be censored if the organization is moved.

The Battalion, according to a staff report, is completely funded by advertisements. No funding is received through the university. This is a model to achieve full autonomy from outside sources that could influence content.

This autonomy is a necessity for student media organizations, like ours, to deliver unhindered and substantial news to our readers. We at The DrumBeat, like many other student media organizations, take pride in it. Our primary function is to inform the public in order to better our communities. In a democratic society, it is important to have the watchdog role that journalism provides to hold those in power accountable, and to serve as a voice for those who might not get much of a say.

The real underlying issue is the almost totalitarian actions of Texas A&M leadership. Not only did The Battalion not have any input over this decision, but at the time of announcement, the staff was given no options to negotiate, according to The Battalion.

"In a Feb. 11 impromptu meeting between editor-in-chief Myranda Campanella, Student Body President Natalie Parks and Ramirez, the [Vice President of Student Affairs] unequivocally stated the decision was, in fact, final, despite the demand being presented as a choice less than 24 hours before," The Battalion stated.

> *"Treating a student media outlet differently from other student organizations - that is, imposing 'differential treatment' that 'singles out the press' - violates the First Amendment -*
> *Foundation of Individual Rights in Education's student press counsel"*

The backlash to this decision has been felt not only in College Station, but across the state. Student Media organizations like The North Texas Daily in Denton and The Pine Log in Nacogdoches, have expressed solidarity with The Battalion.

The student senate, faculty senate and others within the student body have also expressed their support. #SaveTheBatt has become a trending topic on social media, along with a change.org petition that has reached over 7,000 signatures by March 1.

A nonprofit named Friends of The Batt, which was formed in late 2019 in response to financial hardships the organization faced, is pushing donations to help fund The Battalion's future.

Statements from a coalition of media groups led by the Student Press Law Center and the Foundation of Individual Rights in Education's student press counsel, or FIRE, have both called the executive decision a violation of the First Amendment.

"The First Amendment sharply circumscribes the authority available to the university's administration in how it may regulate an independent student publication," FIRE said. "Treating a student media outlet differently from other student organizations — that is, imposing 'differential treatment' that 'singles out the press' — violates the First Amendment."

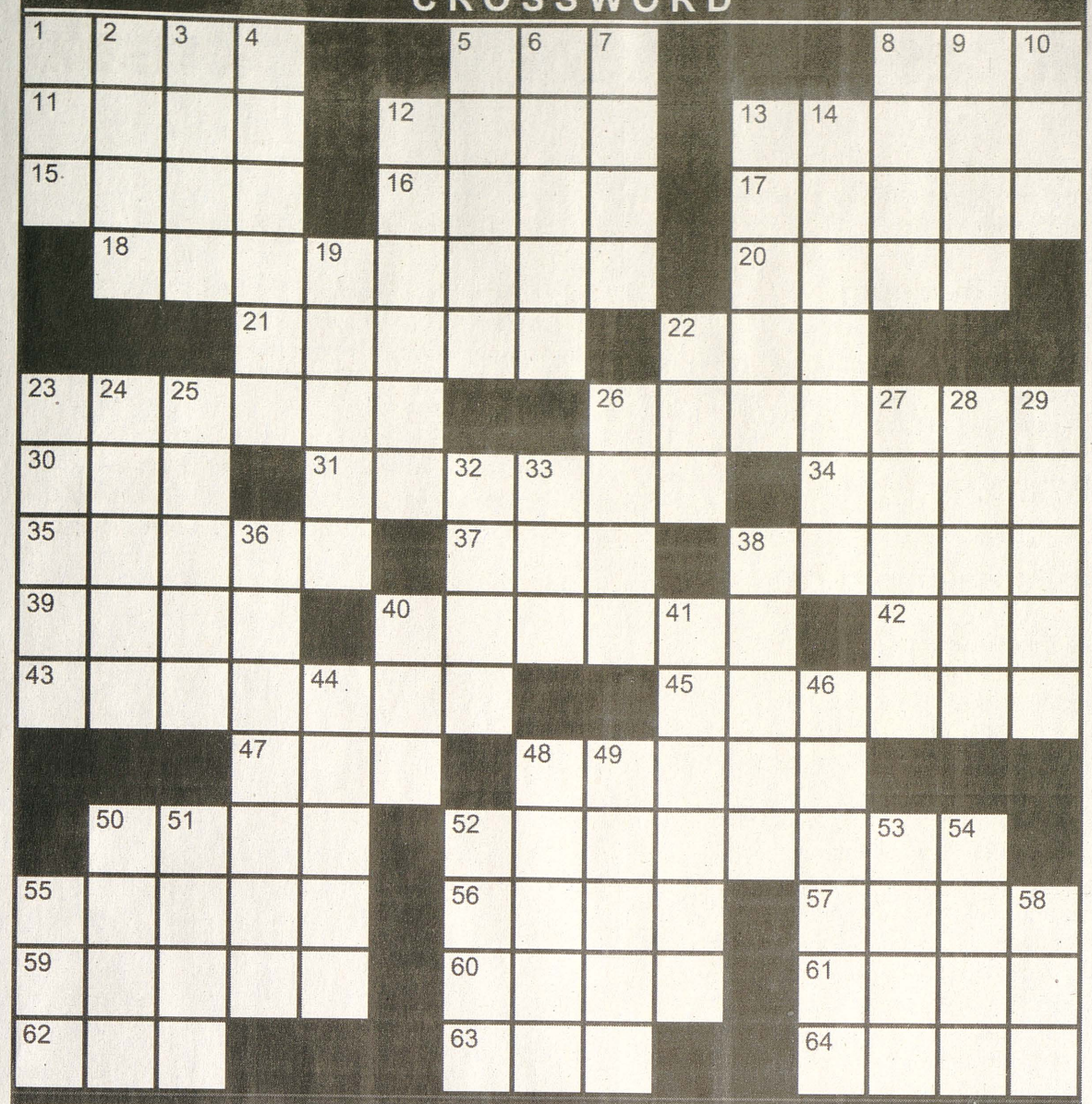
Texas A&M is deeply rooted in tradition. Like the 12th man and the midnight yell, The Battalion is also deeply rooted in Texas A&M's history. Beginning in 1893, even before the first Aggie football game, it has been a record of the college's vibrant and unique history, serving as an integral piece of the university's archives. Taking that away is a move that seems uncharacteristic and out of line with the message conveying the deeply rooted traditions the university prides itself upon.

The Battalion is in a fight for its life, and The DrumBeat among many other student media bodies are, rallying for their success. We hope to see A&M's leadership make the right decision, and let The Battalion continue printing for the sake of student press freedom.

This is a developing story. For more information and the latest updates, visit The Battalion's website at thebatt.com.

PUZZLES

CROSSWORD



THEME: FOOD AND DRINK

ACROSS

1. *Lettuce variety
5. Drivel
8. *CafÈ alternative
11. *Cantina cooker
12. *Waldorf salad ingredient
13. Animal trail
15. Radio knob
16. Hurry up, acr.
17. One who accepts the offer
18. *Anise-flavored spirit
20. "Happily ___ after"
21. Operatic solos
22. ___ Air in L.A.
23. Hairy vertebrate
26. Freed
30. In the past
31. Small type of drum
34. *Wine in Italy
35. Charleston, e.g.
37. Chow down
38. a.k.a. honey badger
39. Wet nurse
40. HervÈ Villechaize on "Fantasy Island"
42. Expression of doubt
43. Founding Father
45. City in Japan
47. Shock and ___
48. Jawaharlal's last name
50. *Driest type of sherry
52. *a.k.a. black treacle
55. Softly-softly, loris' cousin
56. A Flock of Seagulls' 1982 hit (2 words)
57. *Cabbage amount
59. Alexandre Dumas' "The Black ___"
60. What seekers do
61. Consequently
62. Everything
63. Temporary craze
64. Swedish shag rugs

DOWN

1. Physique, informally
2. Pelvic bones
3. Spill the beans
4. Certain fir
5. *Fusilli or ziti
6. Same as #39 Across, pl.
7. Supreme pontiff
8. Puff
9. Field worker
10. Be off base
12. Capital of Philippines
13. Be at the helm
14. *Ballerina-inspired dessert
19. All worked up
22. *Granola serving
23. TÈa Leoni's "___ Secretary"
24. Old World lizard
25. Unicellular organism
26. Stroke on a green
27. Lithograph, for short
28. Japan to U.S. in WWII
29. *Stuffed grapevine leaf
32. *Flageolet or azuki
33. *Popular breakfast cereal
36. *Type of #34 Across
38. Lion sounds
40. One little piggy?
41. Easily available (2 words)
44. One clean one?
46. *Betty Crocker fruit snack
48. Waterwheel
49. Serengeti grazer
50. Unplayable baseball
51. It will, contraction
52. Irk
53. Like a ghost
54. Long novel
55. School support org.
58. Opposite of don'ts

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Exploring inexpensive places to visit for spring break

By Marie Salazar
Editor-in-Chief

Spring break is around the corner and with most college students going to school full time, this break often serves as a time to decompress. Here are activities students can do to get away at a college friendly price and close to campus.

Go camping

S'mores, natural trails and scary tales all come with the experience of camping. Camping can provide some with an opportunity to connect with nature while escaping reality. Camping is also a budget friendly way to get away. A variety of state parks located around Tyler such as Tyler State Park and Purtis Creek State Park, offer functional camping grounds for individuals.

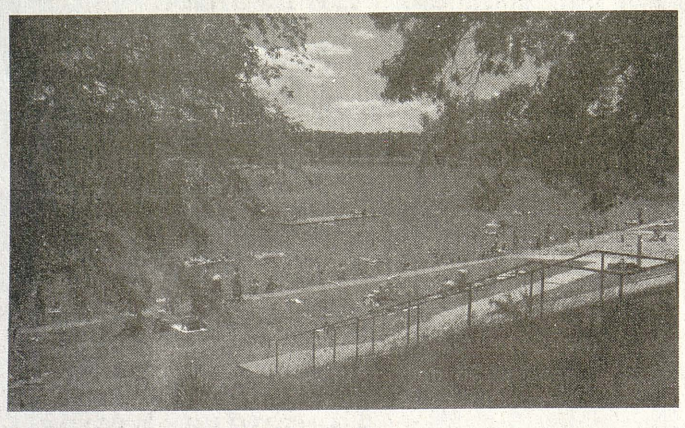


Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons
Tyler State Park Lake is a popular spot for visitors to enjoy the sun and go for a swim. It is located in the middle of the park and is hard to miss.

Tyler State Park

Tyler State Park offers a variety of activities for visitors to enjoy. Boyd Sanders resource interpreter for Tyler State Park discusses what the park has to offer.

"It's a wooded 985 acre park with quite a few activities. Right in the middle of the park is a 64 acre spring fed lake that's great for swimming and fishing. We rent kayaks, pedal boats, those sorts of things here also," Sanders said. "Then we have hiking and mountain biking trails, and they're some of the most popular in the state, real popular with mountain bikers."

In addition to the campsites, if you do not have access to a tent, Tyler State Park offers screened shelters and lodging.

Screened Shelters

- When booking a screen shelter, individuals have access to a picnic table, water and electricity. The shelter will also have an interior light. Outside there's a lantern post and a fire ring with a grill. Restrooms with showers are located nearby. Screened shelters can be booked for $30 nightly plus the $6 entrance fee per person 13 years and older.

Lodging

- Cabins at Tyler State Park include a variety of amenities. According to tpwd.texas.gov, "Rental fee is for two people; $4 per night extra for each person over two (four-person maximum occupancy). Bed sleeps two; space available for a small blow-up mattress or cot." The cabin will also include an A/C unit and a heater. No tents are allowed on the site. The cabin has working water, electricity, an interior light, microwave, refrigerator, table and chairs, and one queen bed. No pets are allowed. Cabins can be rented for $55 nightly with an additional $75 cleaning and damage deposit that will be refunded when guests check-out if the cabin is in good condition. Guests will also pay the additional entrance fee per person.

Purtis Creek State Park

When visiting Purtis Creek State Park, visitors can enjoy activities such as boating, hiking, biking, camping, geocaching and picnicking. Purtis Creek offers three camping styles.

Park Superintendent Trey Goodman explains why Purtis Creek State Park is a good place to spend time.

"It's not very crowded like some of the other state parks. You can fish, swim, hike, all that kind of stuff with little, you know with little crowds," Goodman said.

One must be at least 17 years old to reserve a camping spot, Goodman said.

According to tpwd.texas.gov, the available campsites and amenities include:

Campsites with Electricity

- The rate for campsites with electricity at Purtis Creek are $20 a night plus the $5 entrance fee for each individual 13 years and older. The campsites include a picnic table, water hookup, electric hookup, lantern post and there will be restrooms and showers located nearby.

Campsites with Water (Walk-in)

- The rate for campsites with water are $14 nightly plus the entrance fee. The campsites with water also include a picnic table to eat on, a tent pad, a fire ring with a grill and a lantern post. Restrooms are located nearby.

Primitive Campsites (Hike-in)

- The rate for primitive campsites are $10 nightly plus the entrance fee. The primitive campsite only includes a fire ring with a grill.

Visit a museum

Spending the weekend in Dallas gives individuals the chance to get away but stay close to home. Dallas provides a variety of vacation opportunities such as visiting museums or seeing the art districts. These are great vacation activities for individuals who aren't interested in breaking the bank.

Dallas Museum of Art

Invigorate your brain by visiting the Dallas Museum of Art. The museum currently offers a diverse array of exhibits for visitors such as the painting exhibit by Naudline Pierre: What Could Be Has Not Yet Appeared. Not Visible to the Naked Eye: Inside a Senufo Helmet Mask which is an exhibit that depicts CT scans of Senufo helmet mask. The Guadalupe Rosales: Drifting on a Memory is an installation combining photography, ephemera, and sound. The Bosco Sodi: La fuerza del destino is an exhibit showcasing paintings and sculptures. Slip Zone: A New Look at Postwar Abstraction in the Americas and East Asia depicts paintings and sculptures. Bamana Mud Cloth: From Mali to the World previews dye-decorated cloth. The Keir Collection of Islamic Art Gallery displays manuscripts, paintings and textiles. Octavio Medellín: Spirit and Form displays sculptures. Jean-Michel Basquiat: "Sam F" and Rooted exhibit includes paintings, sculpture, photographs, decorative arts, prints and clothing.

General admission is free; however, visitors are recommended to reserve tickets online. According to dma.org/visit, "Walk-ups are welcome and will be accommodated, but please note that you will be directed to the Guest Services Desk at either our Ross Avenue Entrance or Main Entrance if you do not have a ticket."

The museum is open 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 11 a.m.–9 p.m. Friday; and 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. For more information, visit dma.org.

Photo Courtesy of Dallas Arts Districts
The Dallas Museum of Art is a large modern space with differing exhibits. It is located right in the middle of downtown Dallas.

Perot Museum of Nature and Science

The Perot Museum of Nature and Science is an opportunity for individuals interested in nature and science. The general admission for the museum offers a variety of interactive exhibits for individuals to enjoy at $20 a day. According to perotmuseum.org, their permanent exhibit halls include, the Children's Museum, Sports Hall, Being Human Hall, Engineering and Innovation Hall, Discovering Life Hall, Energy Hall, Gems and Minerals Hall, Dynamic Earth Hall, Life Then and Now Hall, Expanding Universe Hall, The Building as an Exhibit and the Hall of Birds exhibit

The museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday–Saturday; and11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Member-only access is open 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday and 10 to 11 a.m. Sunday.

For more information about Perot Museum of Nature and Science visit, perotmuseum.org.

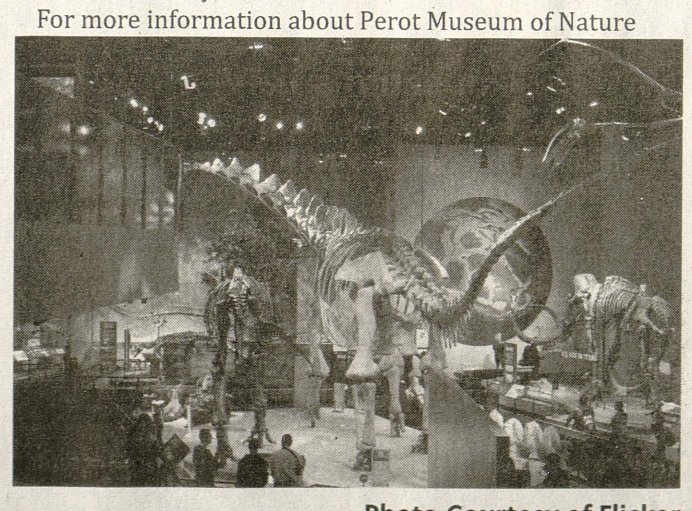


Photo Courtesy of Flicker
The Perot Museum of Nature and Science has many permanent exhibits. The Life Then and Now exhibit includes a T. rex and Alamosaurus fossil when you first walk in.

Stroll an Art District

With art, entertainment, music, food and shops, Deep Ellum is the perfect place to visit when looking for an adventure. From vintage shops to live music events there is always something to find. Deep Ellum has been serving the Dallas area since 1873.

Deepellumtexas.com states, "Deep Ellum is the live music capital of North Texas as well as a hub for the performing arts from theater to comedy. Every night of the week presents an opportunity to experience local music, performances, art shows and more!"

For more information about the area, visit deepellumtexas.com.

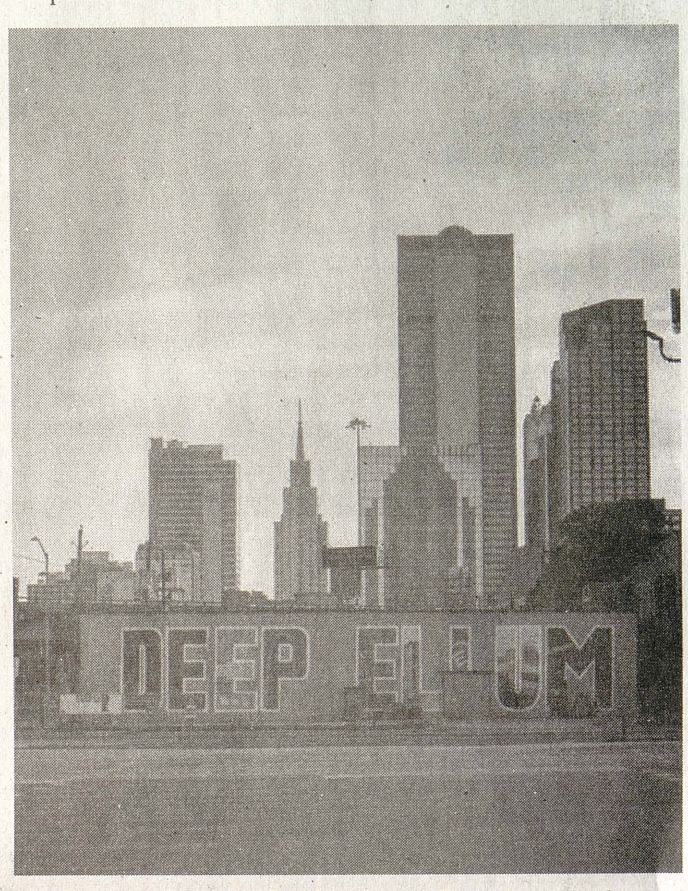


Photo Courtesy of Ashley Byrd from Unsplash.com
Deep Ellum is filled with murals on almost every building you walk by. It is a popular downtown destination for live music, sculptures, and unique restaurants.

Bishop Arts District

If you are interested in exploring various shops and if window shopping is your thing, the Bishop Arts District is the place for you. This tight-knit community is home to many antiques shops, restaurants and galleries as well as beautiful art murals conveniently located for guests to see. "Located in the heart of North Oak Cliff, the Bishop Arts District is home to over 60 independent boutiques, restaurants, bars, coffee shops, and art galleries, making it one of Dallas' most unique neighborhoods," according to bishopartsdistrict.com. Many of these shops are independently run so hours of operation vary.

For more information about the district, visit bishopartsdistrict.com.

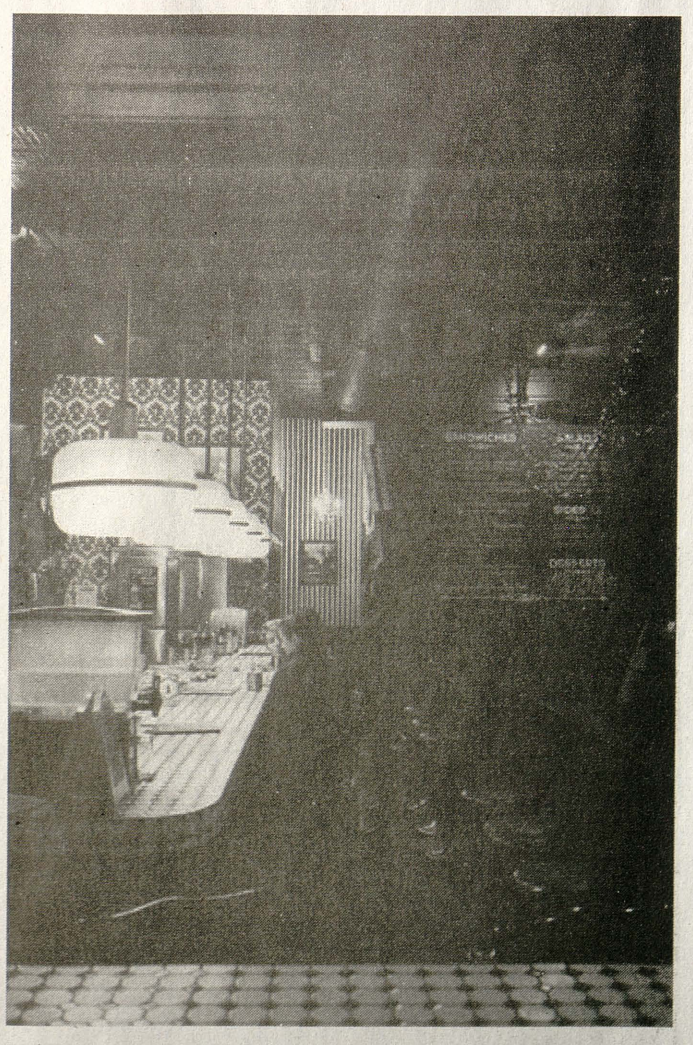


Photo Courtesy of Corey Collins from Unsplash.com
Bishop Arts District is one of the most distinctive neighborhoods in the metroplex area. It is known for its diverse nightlife, along with many restaraunts, bars and coffee shops.

Review: HBO Max shows worth subscribing to

By Asia Johnson
Managing Editor

When it comes to the discussion on the best trending shows and films, Netflix always seems to take the spotlight. Although there's nothing wrong with Netflix, it's definitely time to divert the entertainment attention to other deserving streaming platforms, like HBO Max.

Here are some mature, yet college-friendly HBO Max Original favorites:

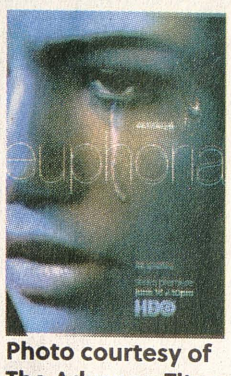


Photo courtesy of The Advance-Titan

"Euphoria"

I don't know a time when I haven't picked up my phone without seeing a reference to the drama series, "Euphoria." This show highlights topics of drug abuse, depression, grief, friendship and much more. The main character, Rue, is a drug addict who has just come back from rehab. Along the way, the story focuses on multiple characters and their different internal and external struggles. Many graphic scenes and triggers are incorporated; however, the overall plot encompasses a plethora of powerful messages and themes. It is made known in the beginning of every episode that "Euphoria" is for mature audiences only.

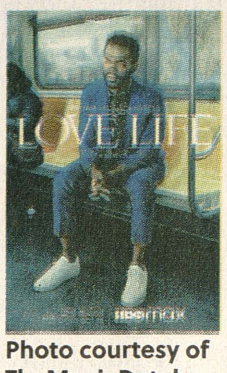


Photo courtesy of TheMovieDatabase

"Love Life"

"Love Life" is a rom com about a woman named Darby and a man named Marcus who is in search of love in many different ways. While not all the relationships they experience are successful, the people they meet do leave lasting impressions. Each episode is separated by each partner they have, all with different personalities and looks. This show takes the audience on Darby and Marcus' separate love journeys and is filled with both romance and humor.

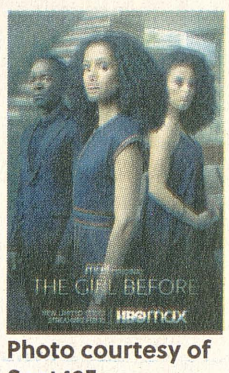


Photo courtesy of Seat42F

"The Girl Before"

This show is a psychological thriller exploring the lives of two individuals who have lived in the same minimalistic house but at different times. This house isn't an ordinary house, as it doesn't require rent, but data analysis. The designer and architect has also placed strict rules for the house that seem a bit odd. Before someone can live in the house, they must be interviewed by the architect, and it is up to him if they are "fit" for the house. The current tenant, Jane, makes a shocking revelation about the previous resident, which causes her to question her safety in the house.

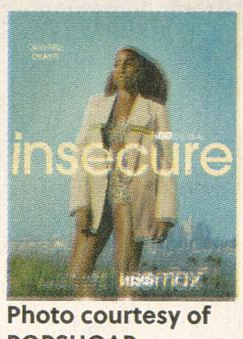


Photo courtesy of POPSUGAR

"Insecure"

"Insecure" is a comedy series about a group of black women who do not fall into the stereotype of the typical black women, meaning strong and confident. In fact, the characters are the exact opposite in many ways. The main focus is on Issa and her best friend Molly and how they learn to accept the reality of their flaws and insecurities. Indie and artists of color are featured, and many episodes showcase a variety of social and racial issues that relate to black society.

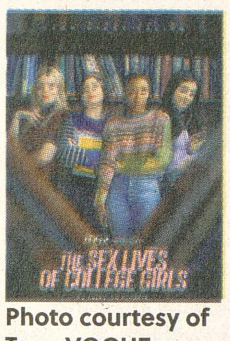


Photo courtesy of Teen VOGUE

"The Sex Lives of College Girls"

In this comedy-drama series, four roommates navigate their social and sexual lives while at Essex College. Although chaotic, Kimberly, Leighton, Whitney and Bela's mission is to discover who they are and live as their truest selves. While on their journey of self-discovery, the women develop a close-knit friendship with one another. This show reveals the importance of friendship and embracing who you are while creating a comedic atmosphere.

HBO Max provides a great deal of other TV shows, original series, as well as movies and documentaries. HBO's current cost is $9.99/month and does not currently offer a student discounted rate.

DrumBeat staff picks tunes for SPRING BREAK

By Aliyah Moosberg
Social Media Editor

As the weather warms up and a break from school is approaching, The DrumBeat's staff looked through their own playlists to see what they will be listening to over spring break.

Photo courtesy of Interscope Records

#1 "All The Stars" - Kendrick Lamar & SZA

This is a contemporary R&B song dedicated to love and fame. In this song, the aspect of love is transitioned into something they strive for and not the feeling from hate-filled individuals. The song also expresses they believe their psychological problems are tied to fame.

Photo courtesy of Rounder Records

#2 "I Choose You" - The Steeldrivers

"I Choose You" is a bluegrass song celebrating lasting love. In this song, the man repeatedly states he would choose his love over anything everyday even if it "runs his life away"

Photo courtesy of Polydor Records

#3 "Space Ghost Coast to Coast" - Glass Animals

Glass Animals' alternative song has a fun beat to it, but holds a deeper meaning. The song is sung from the point of view of an ex-friend of a convicted attempted shooter. The song is based on a real story of the artist's life.

Photo courtesy of Dead Ocean Records

#4 "Graceland Too" - Phoebe Bridgers

Phoebe Bridgeres' indie/alternative song is a heart wrenching story that tells about caring for someone who hates themselves. The song is in the perspective of a woman who watches her friends go through things like depression, addiction and self-hate alone.

Photo courtesy of Universal Music Australia

#5 "The Boat I Row" - Tame Impala

The true vibes of spring break creep in with this Indie/alternative song by Tame Impala. Being released Feb. 18, it has almost had 190,000 views on YouTube.

Photo courtesy of Bell Records

#6 "Love Grows" - Edison Lighthouse

This 1970s classic is a song written about a woman the vocalist is madly in love with. This woman still remains a mystery, lyrics conclude Rosemary to be real due to the fact that she doesn't sound like an idyllic partner.

Photo courtesy of Republic Records

7 "Safari Song" - Greta Van Fleet

In their first hit from the "From the Fires album, this band has a nostalgic Led Zeplin sound. This song talks about a fiery relationship with a girl.

Photo courtesy of Curb Records

#8 "My Girl" - Dylan Scott

This modern-day country song is about his lifelong girlfriend, now wife, Blair Scott got the inspiration while he was away from Blair on the road. This song is sweet for a spring break relationship.

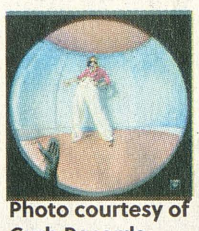


Photo courtesy of Curb Records

#9 "Golden" - Harry Styles

This upbeat alternative song is about starting fresh after a heartbreak, moving on, being in love and being vulnerable. The vibes of the songs give the carefree feeling we need for spring break.

Photo courtesy of RCA Records

#10 "Sugar" - BROCKHAMPTON

This funk-pop song is about expressing regrets of using illegal substances at such a young age and the trauma they have as a result. The artist makes it clear throughout the song that they feel they are unable to love.

Photo courtesy of Warner Music Group

#11 "Only U" - PARTYNEXTDOOR

This Canadian artist describes his ex-girlfriend leaving and breaking his heart. With his R&B feel, you can dance his pain away this spring break.

With a wide genre of songs, you're bound to have a fun spring break this semester!

Apache Belles dance into Spring Show performance

Story and photo by Alexa Glenn
Multimedia Journalist

The Spring Show is a tradition for the Tyler Junior College Apache Belles that started in 1984. This year's Spring Show will start at 7:30 p.m. on March 24-27 at the Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center. Students with a valid TJC ID get into the show for free. Students will have to show proof at the door or at the box office.

"The Spring Show is a celebration and performance for this team. We perform all of our dances, and we honor our sophomores as most of them are moving to other dance teams and others are ending their dancing career here," Ashley Jeffery, sophomore Apache Belle, said.

A group of Apache Belles practice their dance for the Spring Show. This year will feature dances like spoken word, which requires dancers to base their movements off of the rhythm and tone of a speaking voice

From beginning to end, so much preparation goes into making the Spring Show.

"It takes about a year from conceptualizing and brainstorming to lining up choreography; everyone has to learn their routines," Jaslin Schaefer, the director of the Apache Belles, said.

In the show, there are 18 to 20 routines with small gaps in between for costume changes. The women who were just on stage come off to change and a different group goes on for the next dance. They are trying to make sure that the show flows well, while still giving space for various costumes throughout the night.

The week before the Spring Show the Apache Belles have tech week. During tech week, the Belles start getting lights set up and making sure the lighting with each dance is correct. They're also adding in last details for their dances and getting their props set up.

The types of dances guests will see during the Spring Show are hip-hop, contemporary, jazz, tap, spoken word, musical theater, stylized jazz and high kicks.

Spring Show is a way for the Belles to show off their skills and talents, and it's a way for the families to come and watch.

"It's a chance to invite the community in to see the talent of our Tyler Junior College Apache Belles," Schaefer said. "We get to showcase some of the lesser-known talents."

For the Belles, this is the one event put on simply for them to perform.

"I feel like the Spring Show, at least in my eyes, it is solely just for us, and for us to showcase what we've done all year," Sydney Stone, freshman Apache Belle, said.

The show also offers a chance for the Apache Belles to show off their talents and dancing.

"During Spring Show, we all get to show our true abilities in dance, technique and in all different genres of dancing and that's how we all get to show our own personality during that time," Cydney Cassidy, sophomore captain of the Apache Belles, said.

To read the full story, go online to thedrumbeat.com.

Time-flexible ways to make money for college students

Story and Graphics
By Marie Salazar
Editor-in-Chief

Going to school full time often eliminates the possibility for students to maintain a full-time job. Despite students' booked availability, their need for money remains prevalent. Here are three ways students can safely earn income on their own time.

Donating Plasma

With a constant need for plasma, individuals can earn money safely by simply donating.

BioLife Plasma Services is a facility that collects plasma that is eventually used in plasma-based therapies. According to biolifeplasma.com, "BioLife Plasma Services is an industry leader in the collection of high-quality plasma that is processed into life-saving plasma-based therapies. We operate numerous state-of-the-art plasma collection facilities throughout the United States and Europe."

Alicia Highlander, BioLife communications lead, discusses the importance of plasma donations.

"Plasma donations are used to create life-saving medicine for hundreds of thousands of people who live with rare and complex chronic diseases, including immunodeficiency disorders. For many of these individuals, medicine developed from plasma is their only option for treatment," Highlander said. "Plasma cannot be artificially produced. It can only be sourced from healthy individuals who choose to donate making it a scarce, life-changing resource. We are grateful for every single person who graciously donates their plasma."

According to info.biolifeplasma.com, new donors can earn up to $900 in eight plasma donations by using their new donor coupon. To find this coupon, visit your local plasma donation centers website and find the "click here" link.

Highlander explains compensation from donating varies depending on the local market environment. "BioLife compensates individuals who donate plasma in recognition of their time and commitment. Donor compensation can vary depending on the local market environment," Highlander said. "If you're interested in learning more, head to BioLifePlasma.com, give us a call or stop by the local BioLife center in Tyler."

To be eligible to donate, individuals need to meet a specific set of requirements such as:

- 18 years or older
- Weigh at least 110 pounds
- Good health
- Valid identification
- A healthy diet
- Proof of address

In addition to the main requirements, individuals must undergo a medical screening. The screening will include, "medical history interview, a physical examination and a blood test," according to the BioLife Plasma Services website. There are also additional requirements depending on your use of drugs and medications, medical conditions, medical procedures and body modifications such as tattoos and piercings.

Individuals can donate plasma up to twice a week.

"The body quickly replaces the plasma removed during the donation process, which allows healthy individuals to donate as often as twice in a seven-day period, with at least one day between donations," Highlander said.

For more information regarding plasma donation visit, biolifeplasma.com.

Delivery Services

The rise of apps such as Uber Eats, DoorDash and InstaCart in Tyler has created a need for delivery drivers. Delivery services provide opportunities for students to earn money at their own convenience.

Grubhub, Postmates, DoorDash and UberEats are all common delivery services used when it comes to transporting food. Each service allows drivers to set their own schedule by picking up delivery orders at their own time.

The following list is the average income for each delivery service yearly, monthly and weekly in Texas, according to ziprecruiter.com.

Grubhub drivers' average yearly income is around $31,977. This is equivalent to $615 a week or $2,665 a month.

Postmate drivers' average yearly income is around $38,089. This is equal to $732 a week or $3,174 a month.

DoorDash drivers' average yearly income is around $36,565. This is equal to $648 a week or $2,808 a month.

UberEats drivers' average yearly income is around $35,002. This is equal to $773 a week or $3,348 a month.

The ziprecruiter website said, "While ZipRecruiter is seeing salaries as high as $55,014 and as low as $10,372, the majority of Food Delivery Driver salaries currently range between $18,488 (25th percentile) to $31,114 (75th percentile) with top earners (90th percentile) making $41,035 annually in Tyler."

In addition to food delivery services, InstaCart has become more popular in the grocery delivering industry. Much like DoorDash and UberEats, InstaCart drivers can also pick up orders at their own convenience.

According to indeed.com, InstaCart drivers' yearly income is around $25,633. After dividing the income by 12 months, InstaCart drivers make roughly $2,136 monthly. Also by dividing the yearly income by 51 weeks in the year InstaCart drivers weekly pay is around $501.

If you're looking to make a little extra cash, delivery driving might be for you.

Sell old items on resale apps or to stores

Surprisingly, one may actually have money laying around they are unaware of. Those jeans you no longer like or that old gaming system you never use can both be resold on a variety of sites such as Mercari, Facebook Marketplace and eBay for profit.

If you are looking to make extra cash and you have stuff you no longer need, resale it. Top sellers on eBay make approximately $3,625 monthly, according to a study by ziprecruiter.com.

In addition to making money, you are also decluttering your home while giving your items a second chance.

In addition to selling online, students can take apparel to their local Plato's Closet or Uptown Cheapskate to potentially sell their old items for profit. According to platoscloset.com, "we buy gently used teen and young adult clothes, shoes and accessories that are in good condition- no stains. We buy every day and will pay you in cash on the spot, no appointment needed!"

At Uptown Cheapskate you can earn a third of what they intend to price the item at.

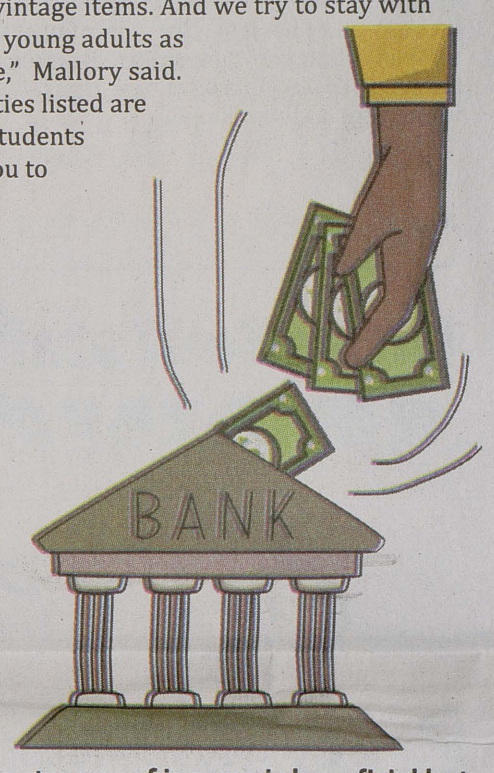
General manager Jacey Mallory discusses how the percentage of money back works when selling your clothing.

"You get a different percent based off of what brand it is. So if you were to bring in something from Walmart, you're not going to get as much as what it would be if it was like Adidas or Nike," Mallory said.

Uptown Cheapskate accepts men's and women's styles when purchasing clothing.

"So we do all seasons all year around. Typically, we can take things up to two years old from any retail store, but we do also take vintage items. And we try to stay with like late teens to young adults as much as possible," Mallory said.

The opportunities listed are jobs for college students that will allow you to create your own schedule in addition to being able to leave at your own convenience.



Having multiple streams of income is beneficial but can become stressful while in school. These three options are ways to make money while being in control of how much time is put in.

Professor David Dickerson speaks about path to teaching

Interview by Natalie Travis
Multimedia Journalist

David Dickerson, an English and world literature professor, expounds on his journey as an educator as well as his personal interests and favorites.

Q: Did you work at a college before teaching at TJC?

A: I got my master's degree at Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches and I started teaching there part time. I was also teaching part time at Panola College at the same time. Then we moved back here to Tyler, and I was working for a family business and teaching part time at TJC. Did that for a few years and then moved away and when we came back, I worked for a nonprofit for a bit.

Q: What made you decide to come teach at TJC?

A: I came to see if I could get night work. I had actually applied at Starbucks too, so I could work on the weekends and have some extra income. There was a full-time opening so whenever I applied, the department chair asked if I wanted to be considered for it. I went to TJC and whenever I left here, my dream was to get my Ph.D and come back here. So it was always in the back of my head.

Q: Do you think being a teacher at a junior college you get to see a little bit of the growth you saw as a high school teacher?

A: The semesters are four months long so you don't get as deep a relationship with every student, but it took me that year to kind of catch up and go, "oh yeah" you just have to kind of have your eyes open. You get people that see something they've never seen or begin to figure out their style. Maybe the people that weren't great students before become better students; you just have to dig for it a little differently.

Q: When you were growing up, were you thinking about a job, like being a teacher, with a family in mind?

Photo by Marie Salazar
David Dickerson attended college at Stephen F. Austin University and the University of Oklahoma. He has received both his Bachelor and Master of Arts in English language and literature.

A: I wasn't. I didn't really know what I wanted to do. I was always like "OK, whatever." I wouldn't have chosen to be a teacher when I was a kid; I probably wanted to be an actor. And then I came here as a student and got to do a little theater and really loved it, but I knew I wasn't a leading man type. The more English I took, the more I loved getting into texts and then talking about it. TJC is when I fell in love with learning.

Q: What is one of your favorite books you have read?

A: As a reader, I've always loved Kurt Vonnegut Jr.'s work. His work is in little short chunks so I could read it while I was doing other things, so I would read while I was eating lunch at TJC as a student. When I got done reading "Slaughterhouse-Five," I remember feeling numb, like I had just had some kind of crazy experience, so that's an addictive feeling for me. As a teacher, anything that the students get into and really want to talk about.

Q: What is something fun or interesting about you that not many people know?

A: I keep bees, so that's a weird kind of out-of-the-blue sort of thing. I didn't stick with theater while I was a student, but I am now a producer on the board at the Civic Theater, so that is a huge part of what I do when I'm not hanging out with my kids.

Q: Do you have a favorite production that you have been in?

A: Yeah! I have done some really neat ones, but one of the last ones that I did that was a big thing was "Mamma Mia!." Somebody got the word out that they needed old guys, so I went in and I got cast as Harry, who is played by Colin Firth in the movie.

Q: If you could have lunch with someone dead or alive, who would it be and why?

A: You've got to be careful meeting your heroes because you could sometimes find that they are not the person you thought they were. It would be amazing to have somebody like Jesus or Gandhi, somebody who is just essence, at least that's how I understand them. But I just wouldn't know what to say.

Q: Is there anything else that you would like students to know?

A: I would want students to know the best thing that I think about college is that it's all on you. You can be and make it whatever you want it to be. It's a time to find out what you value and where you want to go as opposed to maybe doing what your parents want you to do. This is a place where you can experience different things in a cost effective way, at least here at least. And this is why I love teaching college, being around young people that are discovering what they want and learning that they can get what they want if they're willing to try for it.

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